

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the present application. The final Office Action dated March 22, 2005 has been received and its content carefully reviewed.

By this Response, claim 1 has been amended and claim 4 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-3, 5-9 and 11-27 are pending in the application with claims 12-19 being withdrawn from consideration. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection in view of the above amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-9, 11 and 20-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Related Art (ARA) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,525,705, issued to Ishii et al. (hereafter "Ishii"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection because neither ARA nor Ishii, analyzed alone or in any combination, teaches or suggests the combined features recited in the claims of the present application. In particular, ARA and Ishii fail to teach an in-plane switching mode liquid crystal display device "wherein the dummy pattern is integral with at least one of the common electrodes" as recited in independent claims 1 and 20 of the present application.

The Office Action concedes that ARA does not teach all the recited features of the present application and relies upon the teachings of Ishii to remedy the deficient teachings of ARA. Applicant respectfully submits Ishii fails to remedy the deficient teachings of ARA. Ishii discloses a U-shaped line-open repair line extending around the useful display area SCR on the liquid crystal display element LCD (see, col. 2, lines 33-35). Specifically, "the line-open repair line DH for transferring the video signals to the video signal line DATA containing a line open is disposed **outside** the useful display area SCR, and consequently, the route of the line-open repair line DH necessarily becomes long... such that delay in the video signals is caused" (see, col. 2, lines 55-61 emphasis added). To remedy the video signal delay, Ishii discloses "a signal amplifier connected to a line-open repair line" in order to amplify the signals on the repair line (see, col. 4, lines 21-25).

Applicant kindly directs the Examiner attention to, for example, Figs. 1 and 4 in which line-open repair lines DH1, DH2 and DHG and signal amplifier DA are located around the periphery of the LCD element, i.e., outside the useful display area SCR. This structure of Ishii

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fails meet the structure recited in the claims of the present application. Specifically, Ishii fails to teach "wherein the dummy pattern is integral with at least one of the common electrodes" as recited in independent claims 1 and 20 of the present application. Because neither Ishii nor ARA teach at least this feature, no combination of ARA and Ishii would provide an in-plane switching mode liquid crystal display device having the combined features of independent claims 1 and 20. Accordingly, claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-3, 5-9 and 11, and claim 20 and its dependent claims 21-27 are allowable over any combination of ARA and Ishii. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If the Examiner deems that a telephone conversation would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (202) 496-7500.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

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Respectfully submitted,

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